pany for financing housing activities in Northern Region on the pattern of 'Can Fan Home Ltd.' a subsidiary of Canara Bank; if so, what are the details thereof;

(b) whether any other Bank has set up any subsidiary or otherwise for financing housing activities in Northern Region if so, what are the details thereof;

(c) if the reply to parts (a) and (b) above be in the negative what are the reasons therefor; and

(d) what are the names of the institutions other than LIC and HUDCO which are financing, housing activities of individuals in Northern Region including scheduled commercial Banks?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has reported that Punjab National Bank (PNB) has recently been permitted to promote a fully owned subsidiary for undertaking housing finance activities in Northern States/Union Territories comprising Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir, Punjab, Uttar Pradesh, Chandigarh and Delhi.

(b) and (c) RBI has reported that Canbank Financial Services Ltd. has also promoted an institution jointly with Canara Bank for undertaking housing finance activities in Union Territory of Delhi in addition to States in Southern Region.

(d) The RBI has further reported that in addition to LIC and HUDCO, scheduled commercial banks are providing finance for housing activities. Three housing finance companies also provide housing finance to individuals in the country.

Inflation rate

1759. SHRI MURLIDHAR CHANDRAKANT BHANDARE: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether latest data, available indicate an inflation rate of 10.4 per cent during 1987-88. which is nearly double the inflation rate of 5.3 per cent for 1986-87; and

(b) if so, what were the main factors to which this hike in the inflation rate is attributable?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) and (b) The rate of inflation during 1987-88 was 10.6 per cent as against 5.3 per cent in 1986-87. The latest data indicate that the annual rate of inflaton has come down to 7.5 per cent as on July 23rd, 1988.

Prices remained under pressure during 1987-88 on account of the severe drought. The inflation rate during the year was, however, much lower than in the earlier years of comparable drought.

Extremist activity on Orissa, Andhra Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh Borders

1760. KUMARI SUSHILA TIRIA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of increased extremist activity on Orissa-Andhra Pradesh-Madhya Pradesh borders;

(b) what assistance has been given to the concerned State Governments to tackle this menace; and

(c) what measures are being taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBRAM): (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Shifting of the office of MPEDA from Kerala to Orissa

1761. KUMARI SUSHILA TIRIA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have recived any representation for shifting the office of the Marine Products Export Development Authority to Orissa; if so, what are the details thereof; and

(b) what are the reasons for not shifting the office of MPEDA from Kerala to Orissa which is now a large producer of marine exports?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. R. DAS MUNSHI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Raids against tax evaders

1762. SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of raids conducted by Government against tax evaders and Government officials during the last six months;

(b) what is the total amount of money movable and immovable assets found without proper accounts in respect of the above categories of persons; and

(c) whether Government have any proposal to introduce any amnesty scheme this year so that tax evaders come forward and disclose their income; if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI AJIT PANJA): (a) During the period 1.1.1988 to 30.6.1988, the Income tax Department conducted 3545 searches.

(b) The searches mentioned above resulted in seizure of unaccounted assets, including cash and jewellery, and a large number of incriminating documents. The aggregate value of the seized assets is about Rs. 85.27 crores. During these searches, concealment of income to the tune of Rs. 119.51 crores was admitted by the persons searched.

(c) No such proposal is under consideration by the Government.

Production of Mulberry raw silk

1763. SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have plans to increase the production of mulberry raw silk to 8000 tonnes a year because of the heavy demand in foreign countries for the raw silk;

(b) what is the total amount to be spent for increasing the production of raw silk; and

(c) what facilities Government are providing to the formers who are involved in mulberry production?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA): (a) Production of mulberry silk in the country has already reached the level of 8400 tonnes in 1987-88. The Production target set for the end of the VII Plan period for mulberry raw silk is 9980 tonnes;

(b) The Planning Commission have approved an allocation of Rs. 240 crores for, State Sector and Rs. 70 crores for Central Sector for sericulture development during the VII Plan period.

(c) Central Government, through the Central Silk Board, supplements the efforts of State Governments by providing the following assistance to the farmers involved in mulberry production:—

(i) Supply of high yielding varieties of mulberry cuttings at subsidised rates.